

Thunder Bay Walleye Club

Newsletter

February, 2009

P.O. Box 812 Alpena, MI 49707

Officers		Board of Directors
President	Jim Leeseberg	Bill O'Neil
Vice President	Dave Birmingham	Richard Hubert
Finance/Recording Secretary	Dennis Burns	Eric MacKenzie
		Kevin Cosbitt

**** Club Activities ****

*****SPEAKER OF THE MONTH*****

JOHN GILMAN- BIG BITE BAITS/PROFESSIONAL WALLEYE FISHERMAN

John has offered to come and speak to the club on walleye fishing for the February meeting. We will take care of quick business and move right into letting John do his thing. I have not heard from anyone as to a particular topic, so I will take the liberty of discussing with him what would be best for the overall group. John will also be here to sell his new product he has offered to the club at cost, Big Bit Baits. He will have catalogues and order forms available that evening. Let's fill the house and show some good support for John as our local Walleye Professional.

• *Ice Fishing Tournament*

The ice-fishing tournament held on ***January 18, 2009 on Hubbard Lake*** sponsored by the Side Door Bait and Tackle had a great turnout with approximately 67 participants fishing for the day. When it was all said and done, the largest WALLEYE was 22" caught by Terry Kinney and the top perch was 14.50" caught by Steve Holsworth. I was not able to get the fishing information from individuals as to where the fish were caught. My best guess would have been the south end or around that area. Len reports that he had a great turnout for bait, and he appreciated the business. In the future, we hope to follow up with pictures for the local paper- my camera was dead due to the cold. Everyone seemed to have a great time and enjoyed the day's festivities. If you were lucky to pre-fish on Saturday (it was horrible), we can all be thankful the weather turned out as nice as it did for the tournament.

• *The REEL FUN Ice Fishing Tournament: February 14, 2009 from 12-3pm On the South End of Grand Lake*

To help raise community awareness and support of the River Center, the Wildlife Sanctuary Board is partnering with TBWC to produce the first of what it hopes will become an annual event- "The Reel Fun Ice Fishing Tournament." The board is only selling 500 tickets that are available to the public at Clems, Bucks, the Chamber of Commerce and members of the Wildlife Sanctuary Board and club and at this month's Walleye Club meeting. The tournament is slated for Valentine's Day from noon to 3pm on the south end of Grand Lake. The Tickets purchased before February 8 are \$25 per hole or after that date for \$30. Fisherman will only be able to fish two holes for the time period. The Sanctuary Board is using this project as the catalyst to generate the funds for the River Center to be located on Sportsman's Island. The River Center is the state-of-the-art interpretive center that the Sanctuary's board envisions will become a destination point for 250,000 visitors to Alpena each year. It will host classrooms and topnotch equipment to be used by students and adults throughout the area. It will also host a large freshwater aquarium stocked with local fish. The project is sure to be a jewel in the north and benefit the community greatly. The tournament is geared to model the Brainerd charity ice fishing tournament out of Minnesota that accommodates 9,000 anglers each year and has helped to raise huge amounts of money for their local

community. The Sanctuary committee thought that they would start on the smaller end of the spectrum and work with a more manageable bunch with 600 hundred holes and hopefully that many individuals to fill them. The prizes are outstanding and range from a 4-wheeler, ice shanties, heaters, jewelry, gift certificates, and much, much more. Door prizes will also be drawn. The tournament rules are established to maintain both the integrity of the competition and the level of fun for the participants. To even the field, no electronics, motorized vehicles, or any types of shanties/windbreakers will be allowed- even a single pole with one hole could win the big prize. The beauty, it is in Metzler's Bay (Whiskey Bay) off the south DNR launch on Grand Lake which does not necessarily produce large fish, so truly a medium size perch could very well win the big prize. I would encourage anyone interested to check out the web site and consider participating in this great fundraiser for an excellent cause. Go to www.icefishingalpena.com.

○ **WHAT DOES THE CLUB NEED TO DO TO ASSIST IN THIS EVENT?**

*****CALLING ALL AUGERS!*****

TBWC is in charge of all the logistics of the event and need some bodies to do the work. Jim Leeseberg is heading up the club's role and is planning to begin at or around 1pm on Friday drilling 600 holes. He NEEDS club members' help and equipment to accomplish the task. If you are interested in assisting the group, have an auger, or equipment that will assist, please telephone Jim @ 595-3013 to get the details. You don't need an auger to help. Spelling others drilling will be needed. It is very important that the club membership gets as many volunteers as possible to assist. If you are not able to be there in the afternoon, Jim is probably going to need more helpers as the day goes on with holes, roping off the area, and preparing for the next day. The club will also be in charge of the transportation assistance for handicap people at the fishing sight on the day of the event. We will discuss Jim's needs at the start of the meeting under the old business. The club will need 3 to 4 people during the 3 hour event to do perimeter guarding.

**** Club News ****

• ***Monster Walleye Caught on the Thunder Bay River***

While spending a great day on the river, Mitch Bromund and friends had a surprise of a lifetime. While losing a nice fish on one tipup, his second tipup went off. While rushing to get the flag, he didn't know that he was about to catch a once in a lifetime fish. When he pulled it through the hole, he found that he had a walleye measuring 14.5#s; 31.5", with a 19" girth- check the picture out on the web site and think- that could possibly be one the club's first plants. The DNR believes that the walleye was around 19 years old which was just about the time the club's stocking started in the river system.

• ***TBWC Web Site***

You can access the new web page at www.tbwalleye.com. Todd already put some information out there for us and would gladly take any additional information that you might have such as pictures or news. You should take a minute and see what it looks like.

• ***Walleye Club jacket orders & sweat shirts.***

If you are interested in getting a Walleye Club jacket, please give Steve Hubert a call @ 379-4614, so he can make it worthwhile to put orders together. It is really not a cost saver to order one jacket at a time. If you plan on getting one, call ahead, so he can plan for orders. Steve will have hats, t-shirts etc. at the monthly meetings for you to purchase.

36 Hanes fleece pullover hooded sweat shirts in various colors are ordered and may be at the meeting this month. Price is \$25.00 ea.

Other Stuff

The northeast Michigan Branch of Quality Deer Management Association is having their 4th annual banquet on February 21st at the Alpena Recreation Center. Doors open at 4:30 and a beef, roast pork, and chicken dinner is at 6:30. Special guest speaker Tony Lapratt of Ultimate Land Management will be there. Guns, bows, wildlife prints, sculptures, ladies and youth items will be available. Tickets are \$50.00 or \$70.00 for a couple or parent and child and \$20.00 for youths 17 and under. The banquet ticket includes a 1 year membership in the QDMA (\$30.00 value) and future issues of the Quality Whitetails publication. Tickets are available from Vicki Timm 989 727 2594 and Jeremy Hahn 989 727 4563.

Upcoming Activities –

1. January 24, 2009- Ice Fishing Tournament on Long Lake—Sponsor Burton's Last Resort
2. February 11, 2009- Speaker John Gilman
3. February 14, 2009- River Center Ice Fishing Extravaganza on Grand Lake—Sponsor River Center Committee 12-3pm
4. February 21, 2009- Ice Fishing Tournament on Grand Lake—Grand Lake Association
5. April- Annual Club Banquet

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Cumi Barton City

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, February 11, 2009 @ 7:00 pm

- **Besser Tech Room** - Room BTC 112
- Meetings are the second Wednesday of every month

AGENDA:

- Old Business
 - Reel Fun Ice fishing Tournament
 - Hubbard Lake Ice Fishing tournament
 - Burton's Long Lake Ice Fishing tournament
 - Banquet updates
 - City docks
- New Business
 - Speaker, John Gillman
 - Club banquet